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SOURCE

1. Difficulties concerning the grain situation which existed in October 1952 were not overcome in November. It was planned to import by 30 November, 240,000 metric tons of bread and fodder grain from the USSR. As of mid-November, however, only 100,000 metric tons had been realized; 140,000 tons were to be delivered during the second half of November. Large quantities of grain are on the way. It will be impossible to fulfill the plan to store 700,000 tons of grain in the state reserves by the end of 1952, because necessary storage space is not available.
2. Procurement (Erfassung) of grain from the home market came to a standstill in mid-November 1952. Drastic measures taken to fulfill the plan quota were of no avail; in recent ten day reporting periods only small quantities have been procured. As of the end of November, fulfillment amounted to 83 percent.
3. As is the case at the end of every year, large amounts of livestock were procured in November 1952. The shortage of transportation space made it extremely difficult, however, to deliver livestock to the abattoirs. Deliveries were not made according to schedule and as a result, did not correspond to the capacities of the various processing plants. Almost all larger abattoirs were forced to alter operating plans in order to avoid losses. At the same time, large quantities of processed livestock were diverted from large-scale consumers to the new People's Police units and to other organizations.
4. The problem of potato supplies continues to be the most serious one facing the Ministry for Trade and Supply, the Coordinating Ministry (Koordinierungsministerium) and State Secretariat for Procurement and Purchase. Although the Ministry for Agriculture and Forestry reported officially that the potato harvest was almost 100 percent complete by mid-November, checks made by security offices revealed that large quantities of potatoes are still in the ground. Informed circles state that in many Kreis as much as 25 percent of the potato crop has as yet not been harvested.

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5. Roughly 75 percent of the potato supplies have been procured; 1.2 million metric tons still have to be obtained in order to fill plan quotas. Scheduled provisioning of the civilian population and other consumers through 3 March 1953 with the limited amount of 125 kilograms of potatoes per person for normal consumers has been carried out. According to this, if procurement quotas were fulfilled and all deliveries made to all consumers, including industries, 900,000 metric tons would have to be stored or siloed for the People's-Food Plants for Procurement and Purchase (VPEB). As of late November, however, the VPEB had only 375,000 tons of potatoes on hand, and of this amount 23,000 tons were declared unfit for prolonged storage.
6. Deliveries for ZKFF consumers (feed) and for starch factories are far behind schedule. East German starch factories were supposed to process a total of 300,000 metric tons of potatoes during the third and fourth quarters of 1952; a large part of this quantity was desperately needed to fulfill export orders already agreed upon. By the end of November, however, only 157,000 tons had been delivered; as a result, production in starch factories has dropped off considerably and has in part completely stopped. The serious transportation situation has also adversely affected the starch industry, since the Reichsbahn is unable to furnish the necessary number of railroad cars to carry the potatoes.
7. For months only the civilian population in certain key spots, such as large cities and industrial centers, has received small quantities of vegetables, and people in outlying areas have received no vegetables at all. The situation continued to be critical throughout November. That little stocks of vegetables could be found were allotted only to Consumer 9100, the Soviet Control Commission. Despite drastic measures taken by the VPEB's to meet the quota of 75,000 tons of stored vegetables for use during the winter, only 15,000 tons have been realized. The Ministry of Trade and Supply recently suggested that steps be taken to ration vegetables in the first quarter of 1953.
8. It was recently learned from the Ministry of Trade and Supply that rations of butter and animal fats for the civilian population during the fourth quarter of 1952 are about 2,000 metric tons short.

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